

Vespers

A service of evening prayer at Covenant CRC



Welcome to Vespers.

This service of evening prayer will use liturgies from *The Book of Common Prayer* that lead us to pray and ponder through psalms, silence, songs, and meditation, and will act as a way to gather up the events and cares of our days in prayer.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 74:15-16

LEADER Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

Silence

*Greeting

Philippians 1:2

LEADER Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Opening Sentences

LEADER Our help is in the name of the Lord;

PEOPLE **the maker of heaven and earth.**

LEADER It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

PEOPLE **to sing your praise, O Most High;**

LEADER to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

PEOPLE **and your faithfulness at night.**

*Song of Praise

"Rejoice in All Your Works"

Words and music: Wendell Kimbrough
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Every mouth that cries for food,
every lung that yearns for breath,
every eye that searches through the dark for light—
all creation looks to you for its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied.

*Parting Song

"In Our Lives, Lord, Be Glorified"

LUYH 861

*Sharing the Peace

LEADER The peace of the Lord be with you always.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Pass the peace to those around you as you leave.

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Lord, in your mercy,
PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

PEOPLE **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and glory forever. Amen.**

Collect

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Silence

LEADER Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping,

PEOPLE **that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep rest in his peace.**

LEADER You have given yourself to us, Lord.

PEOPLE **Now we give ourselves for others.**

LEADER You have raised us with Christ and made us a new people.

PEOPLE **As people of the resurrection, we will serve you
with joy.**

LEADER Your glory has filled our hearts.

PEOPLE **Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.**

Chorus:

*Oh rejoice in all your works,
King of Heaven, King of Earth!
Every creature you have made declares your praise.
We rejoice in all you've made,
God of all-sustaining grace!
With the mountain, sky, and sea, we sing your praise!*

Every tree that thirsts for rain,
every bird that seeks its nest,
every heart that waits in hope to be made glad—
all creation looks to you for its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied. *(to chorus)*

May the pond'rings of my heart, and the song upon my lips,
with the chorus of creation join in praise:
to the God who made all things, to the Spirit who sustains,
to the Son who over all creation reigns! *(to chorus)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Blessed are you, O Lord, Redeemer God.
You destroyed the bonds of death
and from the darkness of the tomb
drew forth the light of the world.
You led us through the waters of death,
and made us children of light singing alleluias
and dancing to the music of new life.
Pour out your Spirit upon us
that dreams and visions
bring us ever closer to the kingdom of Jesus Christ,
our risen Savior.
Through him and in the Holy Spirit
all glory be to you, almighty God,
this night and forever and ever. **Amen.**

Song

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

LUYH 746

Call to Confession

Romans 8:22-27

Prayer of Confession

Silence

LEADER Most merciful God,
PEOPLE **we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Assurance

Ephesians 2:8

LEADER By grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Song

"The Steadfast Love of the Lord" *LUYH 347*

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.
PEOPLE **O Lord, make haste to help us.**
LEADER Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
PEOPLE **As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be. Alleluia. Amen.**

The Psalm

Psalm 148

1 Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.
2 **Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.
4 **Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.**
5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,
6 **and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.**
7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
8 **lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,**
9 you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
10 **wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,**
11 kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
12 **young men and women,
old men and children.**
13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
14 **And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.
Praise the Lord.**

LEADER Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE **As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be. Alleluia. Amen.**

Meditation: The Call and Gift of Praise

*Song of Response

"Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah"

LUYH 6